

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

Patent Mail Received

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

JUN 12 2008

To:
 DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP
 Attn. Abelev, Gary
 250 Park Avenue
 New York NY 10177
 ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
 THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT AND
 THE WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
 SEARCHING AUTHORITY, OR THE DECLARATION

COPY

(PCT Rule 44.1)

Date of mailing (day/month/year)	10/06/2008
Applicant's or agent's file reference 188001/PCT	
International application No. PCT/US2008/051335	
Applicant THE GENERAL HOSPITAL CORPORATION	

1. The applicant is hereby notified that the international search report and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority have been established and are transmitted herewith.

Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19:

The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the International Application (see Rule 46):

When? The time limit for filing such amendments is normally two months from the date of transmittal of the International Search Report.

Where? Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO, 34 chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, Fascimile No.: (41-22) 338.82.70

For more detailed instructions, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

2. The applicant is hereby notified that no international search report will be established and that the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) to that effect and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority are transmitted herewith.

3. **With regard to the protest** against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:

- the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicant's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices.
- no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made.

4. **Reminders**

Shortly after the expiration of **18 months** from the priority date, the international application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the international application, or of the priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided in Rules 90bis.1 and 90bis.3, respectively, before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication.

The applicant may submit comments on an informal basis on the written opinion of the International Searching Authority to the International Bureau. The International Bureau will send a copy of such comments to all designated Offices unless an international preliminary examination report has been or is to be established. These comments would also be made available to the public but not before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date.

Within **19 months** from the priority date, but only in respect of some designated Offices, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed if the applicant wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase **until 30 months** from the priority date (in some Offices even later); otherwise, the applicant must, **within 20 months** from the priority date, perform the prescribed acts for entry into the national phase before those designated Offices.

In respect of other designated Offices, the time limit of **30 months** (or later) will apply even if no demand is filed within 19 months.

See the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 and, for details about the applicable time limits, Office by Office, see the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume II, National Chapters and the WIPO Internet site.

Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority  European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Iveta Bujanská
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NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220

These Notes are intended to give the basic instructions concerning the filing of amendments under article 19. The Notes are based on the requirements of the Patent Cooperation Treaty, the Regulations and the Administrative Instructions under that Treaty. In case of discrepancy between these Notes and those requirements, the latter are applicable. For more detailed information, see also the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, a publication of WIPO.

In these Notes, "Article", "Rule", and "Section" refer to the provisions of the PCT, the PCT Regulations and the PCT Administrative Instructions, respectively.

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING AMENDMENTS UNDER ARTICLE 19

The applicant has, after having received the international search report and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority, one opportunity to amend the claims of the international application. It should however be emphasized that, since all parts of the international application (claims, description and drawings) may be amended during the international preliminary examination procedure, there is usually no need to file amendments of the claims under Article 19 except where, e.g. the applicant wants the latter to be published for the purposes of provisional protection or has another reason for amending the claims before international publication. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that provisional protection is available in some States only (see *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume I/A, Annexes B1 and B2).

The attention of the applicant is drawn to the fact that amendments to the claims under Article 19 are not allowed where the International Searching Authority has declared, under Article 17(2), that no international search report would be established (see *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume I/A, paragraph 296).

What parts of the international application may be amended?

Under Article 19, only the claims may be amended.

During the international phase, the claims may also be amended (or further amended) under Article 34 before the International Preliminary Examining Authority. The description and drawings may only be amended under Article 34 before the International Examining Authority.

Upon entry into the national phase, all parts of the international application may be amended under Article 28 or, where applicable, Article 41.

When?

Within 2 months from the date of transmittal of the international search report or 16 months from the priority date, whichever time limit expires later. It should be noted, however, that the amendments will be considered as having been received on time if they are received by the International Bureau after the expiration of the applicable time limit but before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication (Rule 46.1).

Where not to file the amendments?

The amendments may only be filed with the International Bureau and not with the receiving Office or the International Searching Authority (Rule 46.2).

Where a demand for international preliminary examination has been/is filed, see below.

How?

Either by cancelling one or more entire claims, by adding one or more new claims or by amending the text of one or more of the claims as filed.

A replacement sheet must be submitted for each sheet of the claims which, on account of an amendment or amendments, differs from the sheet originally filed.

All the claims appearing on a replacement sheet must be numbered in Arabic numerals. Where a claim is cancelled, no renumbering of the other claims is required. In all cases where claims are renumbered, they must be renumbered consecutively (Section 205(b)).

The amendments must be made in the language in which the international application is to be published.

What documents must/may accompany the amendments?

Letter (Section 205(b)):

The amendments must be submitted with a letter.

The letter will not be published with the international application and the amended claims. It should not be confused with the "Statement under Article 19(1)" (see below, under "Statement under Article 19(1)").

The letter must be in English or French, at the choice of the applicant. However, if the language of the international application is English, the letter must be in English; if the language of the international application is French, the letter must be in French.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 188001/PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION		see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.
International application No. PCT/US2008/051335	International filing date (day/month/year) 17/01/2008	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 19/01/2007	
Applicant THE GENERAL HOSPITAL CORPORATION			

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 5 sheets.

It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of:

- the international application in the language in which it was filed
 a translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b))

b. This international search report has been established taking into account the **rectification of an obvious mistake** authorized by or notified to this Authority under Rule 91 (Rule 43.6bis(a)).

c. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box No. II)

3. **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box No III)

4. With regard to the **title**,

- the text is approved as submitted by the applicant
 the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

ROTATING DISK REFLECTION FOR FAST WAVELENGTH SCANNING OF DISPERSED BROADBAND LIGHT

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

- the text is approved as submitted by the applicant
 the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority

6. With regard to the **drawings**,

a. the figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 1a

- as suggested by the applicant
 as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure
 as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention

b. none of the figures is to be published with the abstract

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US2008/051335

Box No. IV Text of the abstract (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

An apparatus and source arrangement for filtering an electromagnetic radiation can be provided which may include at least one spectral separating arrangement (200) configured to physically separate one or more components (320, 340) of the electromagnetic radiation based on a frequency of the electromagnetic radiation. The apparatus and source arrangement may also have at least one continuously rotating optical arrangement, e.g., a spinning reflector disk scanner (500), which is configured to receive at least one signal that is associated with the one or more components (320, 340). Further, the apparatus and source arrangement can include at least one beam selecting arrangement configured to receive the signal. Rotating disk (500) may comprise reflecting patterns (520) to generate a wavelength scan depending on the rotation frequency of the disk (500).

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. H01S3/08 H01S3/1055

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

H01S G02B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, INSPEC, COMPENDEX

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2005/035295 A1 (BOUMA BRETT [US] ET AL) 17 February 2005 (2005-02-17)	1-8
Y	paragraphs [0006] - [0010], [0036] - [0050], [0058], [0061] - [0065]; figures 1,3,6-8	9-16
X	OH W ET AL: "Ultrahigh-speed optical frequency domain imaging and application to laser ablation monitoring" APPLIED PHYSICS LETTERS, AIP, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS, MELVILLE, NY, vol. 88, no. 10, 10 March 2006 (2006-03-10), pages 103902-103902, XP012080529 ISSN: 0003-6951	1-3,6-8
Y	pages 103902-2, column 1 - pages 103902-2; figures 1-3	9-16
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

& document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

28 May 2008

Date of mailing of the international search report

10/06/2008

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Laenen, Robert

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	TELLE J M ET AL: "Very rapid tuning of CW dye laser" APPLIED PHYSICS LETTERS, AIP, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS, MELVILLE, NY, vol. 26, no. 10, 15 May 1975 (1975-05-15), pages 572-574, XP002389841 ISSN: 0003-6951 page 572 - page 573; figure 1 -----	9-16
X	US 3 872 407 A (HUGHES RICHARD SWART) 18 March 1975 (1975-03-18) column 2, line 34 - column 4, line 68; figures 2,3,5 -----	1,7
A	US 4 751 706 A (ROHDE ROBERT S [US] ET AL) 14 June 1988 (1988-06-14) column 1, line 47 - column 2, line 16; figure 1 -----	1,4,7

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2008/051335

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2005035295	A1 17-02-2005	NONE	
US 3872407	A 18-03-1975	NONE	
US 4751706	A 14-06-1988	NONE	

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing (day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)		
Applicant's or agent's file reference see form PCT/ISA/220		FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below
International application No. PCT/US2008/051335	International filing date (day/month/year) 17.01.2008	Priority date (day/month/year) 19.01.2007
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC INV. H01S3/08 H01S3/1055		
Applicant THE GENERAL HOSPITAL CORPORATION		

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Date of completion of this opinion see form PCT/ISA/210	Authorized Officer Laenen, Robert Telephone No. +49 89 2399-6031
		

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/US2008/051335

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 the international application in the language in which it was filed
 a translation of the international application into , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1 (b)).
2. This opinion has been established taking into account the **rectification of an obvious mistake** authorized by or notified to this Authority under Rule 91 (Rule 43bis.1(a))
3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 a sequence listing
 table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 on paper
 in electronic form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 contained in the international application as filed.
 filed together with the international application in electronic form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
4. In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
5. Additional comments:

Box No. II Priority

1. The validity of the priority claim has not been considered because the International Searching Authority does not have in its possession a copy of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed or, where required, a translation of that earlier application. This opinion has nevertheless been established on the assumption that the relevant date (Rules 43bis.1 and 64.1) is the claimed priority date.
2. This opinion has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the fact that the priority claim has been found invalid (Rules 43bis.1 and 64.1). Thus for the purposes of this opinion, the international filing date indicated above is considered to be the relevant date.
3. Additional observations, if necessary:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/US2008/051335

**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or
industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	<u>5,9-16</u>
	No:	Claims	<u>1-4,6-8</u>
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	
	No:	Claims	<u>1-16</u>
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	<u>1-16</u>
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. The following documents (D1-D3) are referred to; the numbering will be adhered to in the rest of the procedure:

- D1: US 2005/035 295 A1 (BOUMA BRETT [US] ET AL) 17 February 2005
D2: OH W ET AL: "Ultrahigh-speed optical frequency domain imaging and application to laser ablation monitoring" APPLIED PHYSICS LETTERS, AIP, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS, MELVILLE, NY, vol. 88, no. 10, 10 March 2006 (2006-03-10), pages 103902-103902, XP012080529 ISSN: 0003-6951
D3: TELLE J M ET AL: "Very rapid tuning of CW dye laser" APPLIED PHYSICS LETTERS, AIP, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS, MELVILLE, NY, vol. 26, no. 10, 15 May 1975 (1975-05-15), pages 572-574, XP002389841 ISSN: 0003-6951

2. The subject-matter of claims 1-4,6-8 is not new in the sense of Article 33 (2) PCT.

D1 discloses an apparatus (Figs. 1,3,6-8; par. 6-10,36-50,58,61-65) comprising an arrangement including at least one section thereon which is configured to receive a first electro-magnetic radiation (Figs. 1B,7; par. 62; D1 discloses a continuously rotating disk 210 which reflects with reflectors 212 on the disk light back to grating 16 within the laser cavity; the rotating disk has a curved shape), wherein the at least one section is configured to at least one of transmit or reflect a second electro-magnetic radiation associated with the first electro-magnetic radiation (Fig. 7; par. 62; D1 discloses a controller for controlling a processing arrangement, see Fig. 8 and par. 65), and wherein the at least one section is configured to modify the second electro-magnetic radiation to have

- a particular wave number which varies linearly in time (par. 8), and
- a mean frequency which changes over time at a rate that is greater than 100

Thz/ms (par. 8; it is clear from the whole reading of D1 that the filter as defined in the embodiment described in par. 62 and depicted in Fig. 7 will have the features as defined in par. 8, i.e. also the repetition rate exceeds 5 kHz and the instantaneous linewidth is smaller than 100 GHz).

Therefore, the subject-matter of claims 1-4,6-8 is not new in the sense of Article 33 (2) PCT.

3. The subject-matter of claims 9,10,13,14 does not involve an inventive step in the sense of Article 33 (3) PCT.

3.1 Document D1 is considered to represent closest prior art.

D1 discloses a laser having a filter for frequency sweep as defined in claims 1-4,6-8 (see point 2 above).

The subject-matter of claims 9,10,13,14 differs from D1 in that

- the roundtrip travel time within the laser cavity is substantially equal to an integer multiple of the characteristic repetition time, and
- the second electro-magnetic radiation is amplified via Raman amplification.

3.2 The problem to be solved by the distinguishing features may therefore be regarded as to provide a broad bandwidth continuously tunable fibre laser with rapid frequency tuning.

3.3 D1 discloses in the embodiment depicted in Fig. 3 a SOA in a fibre laser with the rapid tunable wavelength filter. In order to increase the bandwidth of the laser it is however a standard workshop procedure in the field of lasers to substitute the relatively narrow bandwidth SOA by a Raman active fibre. Because of the long fibre length used in the fibre Raman amplification it is furthermore well-known from D2 (p. 103902-1, rh col.) or D3 (p. 572, lh col. - p. 573, lh col.), that the roundtrip travel time within the laser cavity should be substantially equal to an integer multiple of the characteristic repetition time in order to allow for continuous frequency tuning. Therefore it is obvious to make use of this concept to solve the above stated technical problem.

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING
AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

PCT/US2008/051335

Consequently, the subject-matter of claims 9,10,13,14 does not involve an inventive step in the sense of Art. 33(3) PCT.

4. Dependent claims 5,11,12,15,16 do not appear to contain any additional features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to inventive step, the reasons being as follows:

The subject-matter of claim 4 and claims 9,10,13,14 is known from D1 or rendered obvious by the combination of documents D1 and D2/D3 (see points 2 and 3 above). Using curved reflectors is obvious to remove the need of a lens behind the grating and therefore does not involve inventive skills. Synchronizing and subsequent stabilisation of cavity roundtrip time and spinning frequency is obvious to decrease frequency line width and displays normal control of such lasers not involving inventive skills.

Therefore, the subject-matter of claims 5,11,12,15,16 does not involve an inventive step in the sense of Art. 33(3) PCT.

Re Item VIII

Certain observations on the international application

The application does not meet the requirements of Art. 6 PCT.

1.1 Claims 1 and 9 comprise "second electro-magnetic radiation **associated with** the first electro-magnetic radiation" rendering the subject-matter of these claims unclear, as the term "associated with" does not have any technical meaning in the context of electro-magnetic radiation. This unclear term is for examination of the subject-matter of said claims interpreted in terms of "being part of" in view of the description p. 7-9.

1.2 Claim 3 comprises the unclear term "instantaneous linewidth" rendering the subject-matter of claim 3 unclear as no temporal position is defined, in respect to which said linewidth should be "instantaneous".

1.3 It is clear from the description on pages 7-9 and Figs. 1-5 that the following feature is essential to the definition of the invention:

- the first electro-magnetic radiation is spatially dispersed.

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING
AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

PCT/US2008/051335

Since independent claims 1,9,13 do not contain this feature they do not meet the requirement following from Article 6 PCT taken in combination with Rule 6.3 PCT that any independent claim must contain all the technical features essential to the definition of the invention.

Possible steps after receipt of the international search report (ISR) and written opinion of the International Searching Authority (WO-ISA)

General information	For all international applications filed on or after 01/01/2004 the competent ISA will establish an ISR. It is accompanied by the WO-ISA. Unlike the former written opinion of the IPEA (Rule 66.2 PCT), the WO-ISA is not meant to be responded to, but to be taken into consideration for further procedural steps. This document explains about the possibilities.
Amending claims under Art. 19 PCT	Within 2 months after the date of mailing of the ISR and the WO-ISA the applicant may file amended claims under Art. 19 PCT directly with the International Bureau of WIPO. The PCT reform of 2004 did not change this procedure. For further information please see Rule 46 PCT as well as form PCT/ISA/220 and the corresponding Notes to form PCT/ISA/220.
Filing a demand for international preliminary examination	In principle, the WO-ISA will be considered as the written opinion of the IPEA. This should, in many cases, make it unnecessary to file a demand for international preliminary examination. If the applicant nevertheless wishes to file a demand this must be done before expiry of 3 months after the date of mailing of the ISR/ WO-ISA or 22 months after priority date, whichever expires later (Rule 54bis PCT). Amendments under Art. 34 PCT can be filed with the IPEA as before, normally at the same time as filing the demand (Rule 66.1 (b) PCT). If a demand for international preliminary examination is filed and no comments/amendments have been received the WO-ISA will be transformed by the IPEA into an IPRP (International Preliminary Report on Patentability) which would merely reflect the content of the WO-ISA. The demand can still be withdrawn (Art. 37 PCT).
Filing informal comments	After receipt of the ISR/WO-ISA the applicant may file informal comments on the WO-ISA directly with the International Bureau of WIPO. These will be communicated to the designated Offices together with the IPRP (International Preliminary Report on Patentability) at 30 months from the priority date. Please also refer to the next box.
End of the international phase	At the end of the international phase the International Bureau of WIPO will transform the WO-ISA or, if a demand was filed, the written opinion of the IPEA into the IPRP, which will then be transmitted together with possible informal comments to the designated Offices. The IPRP replaces the former IPER (international preliminary examination report).
Relevant PCT Rules and more information	Rule 43 PCT, Rule 43bis PCT, Rule 44 PCT, Rule 44bis PCT, PCT Newsletter 12/2003, OJ 11/2003, OJ 12/2003

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